

The Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources proposes to amend/add Regulation .01 - .06 under COMAR 08.18.21 The purpose of this action is to update and clarify existing boating laws and coordinates of certain boundaries. This will ensure safe boating on Maryland's waterways.

Items in [parenthesis] are being deleted; items in *italics* are being added.

Title 08

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Subtitle 18 BOATING — SPEED LIMITS AND OPERATION OF VESSELS

Chapter 21 Potomac River

Authority: Natural Resources Article, §§8-703 and, 8-704 [and 8-712], Annotated Code of Maryland

.01 Potomac River.

The Potomac River encompasses all waters of the Potomac River and its tributaries westerly of a line from [Lat. 38°02'15.93"N., Long. 76°19'18.17"W., running 156° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 37°53'22.41"N., Long. 76°14'14.64"W.]*Point Lookout, at or near Lat. 38° 2.267' N., Long. 76° 19.300' W., then running 156° (True) to Smith Point, at or near Lat. 37° 53.367' N., Long. 76° 14.250' W.*

.02 Upper Potomac River.

A.-B. (text unchanged)

C. Williamsport Dam. The Williamsport Dam encompasses the area beginning 200 yards above the Potomac Edison Dam at Williamsport, [and extending upriver to the bridge at U.S. Highway Route 11.]*at or near Lat. 39° 35.810' N., Long. 77° 49.705' W., then running 262° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 35.795' N., Long. 77° 49.850' W., extending upriver to the bridge at U.S. Highway Route 11, at or near Lat. 39° 35.987' N., Long. 77° 49.578' W., then running 274° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.008' N., Long. 77° 49.938' W.* This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

D. Dam Number 3. Dam Number 3 encompasses the area starting at Dam Number 3, [and extending upriver to a line beginning at a point Lat. 39°22'43"N., Long. 77°45'01"W., then 247° True to a point on shore, Lat. 39°22'40"N., Long. 77°45'10"W.]*at or near Lat. 39° 20.225' N., Long. 77° 45.038' W., then running 208° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 20.127' N., Long. 77° 45.107' W., then running 155° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 19.957' N., Long. 77° 45.007' W., and extending upriver to a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 22.717' N., Long. 77° 45.017' W., then running 247° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 22.667' N., Long. 77° 45.167' W.* This area has a 35-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

E. Dam Number 4. Dam Number 4 encompasses the area starting 200 yards upriver of the Dam, [and extending upriver to a line beginning at a point Lat. 39°33'41"N., Long. 77°52'33"W., then 000° True to a point on shore, Lat. 39°33'49"N., Long. 77°52'53"W.] *at or near Lat. 39° 29.780' N., Long. 77° 49.713' W., then running 192° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 29.633' N., Long. 77° 49.755' W., and extending upriver to a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 33.683' N., Long. 77° 52.550' W., then running 297° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 33.817' N., Long. 77° 52.883' W.* This area has a 35-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

F. Dam Number 5. Dam Number 5 encompasses the area starting 200 yards upriver of the Dam [and extending upriver to a line beginning at a point Lat. 39°36'26"N., Long. 77°58'14"W., then 123° True to a point on shore, Lat. 39°36'23"N., Long. 77°58'08"W.,], *at or near Lat. 39° 36.478' N., Long. 77° 55.425' W., then running 215° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.397' N., Long. 77° 55.498' W., and extending upriver to a line beginning at a point , at or near Lat. 39° 36.510' N., Long. 77° 58.058' W., then running 146° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.438' N., Long. 77° 57.995' W., 100 yards downriver of McCoy's Ferry.* This area has a 35-knot speed limit Saturdays, Sundays, and State holidays, all year.

G. Dargen Bend boat launch area encompasses the area beginning at a point 200 yards upriver of the launch ramp, [running to a point 100 yards downriver of the launch ramp, and extending across the river to the opposite shore.] *at or near Lat. 39° 21.925' N., Long. 77° 44.500' W., then running 260° (True) to a point on the opposite side of the river, at or near Lat. 39° 21.907' N., Long. 77° 44.635' W., and extending 100 yards downriver of the launch ramp to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 21.785' N., Long. 77° 44.432' W., then running 261° (True) to a point on the opposite side of the river, at or near Lat. 39° 21.763' N., Long. 77° 44.600' W.* This area is designated a minimum wake zone all year.

H. Big Slackwater boat launch area encompasses the area beginning at a point 200 yards upriver of the launch ramp, [running to a point 100 yards downriver of the launch ramp, and extending across the river to the opposite shore.] *at or near Lat. 39° 30.138' N., Long. 77° 50.740' W., then running 249° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 30.102' N.,*

Long. 77° 50.862' W., and extending 100 yards downriver of the launch ramp to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 29.993' N., Long. 77° 50.693' W., then running 249° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 29.963' N., Long. 77° 50.792' W. This area is designated a minimum wake zone all year.

I. Four Locks boat launch area encompasses the area beginning at a point 200 yards upriver of the launch ramp, [running to a point 100 yards downriver of the launch ramp, and extending across the river to the opposite shore.] at or near Lat. 39° 36.803' N., Long. 77° 56.693' W., then running 54° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.853' N., Long. 77° 56.605' W., and extending 100 yards downriver of the launch ramp to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.913' N., Long. 77° 56.795' W., then running 54° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.970' N., Long. 77° 56.695' W. This area is designated a minimum wake zone all year.

J. McCoy's Ferry boat launch area encompasses the area beginning at a point 200 yards upriver of the launch ramp, [running to a point 100 yards downriver of the launch ramp, and extending across the river to the opposite shore.] at or near Lat. 39° 36.412' N., Long. 77° 58.217' W., then running 141° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.360' N., Long. 77° 58.162' W., then running 28° (True) to a point, and extending 100 yards downriver of the launch ramp to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.510' N., Long. 77° 58.058' W., then running 146° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.438' N., Long. 77° 57.995' W. This area is designated a minimum wake zone all year.

.03 Potomac River North Shore.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Mattawoman Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°4'29.51"N., Long. 77°0'43.62"W., a line running 091° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°34'29.15"N., Long. 76°10'17.12"W.,] at or near Lat. 38° 34.493' N., Long. 77° 10.720' W., then running 91° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 34.485' N., Long. 77° 10.277' W. and running to the head of the creek. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

C. Neal Sound encompasses the area beginning at a point [Lat. 38°16'05.21"N., Long. 76°51'18.85"W., a line running 194° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°15'58.90"N., Long. 76°51'20.85"W., through the entire sound and its tributaries, including the dredged entrance channel.] on the south end of the jetty, at or near Lat. 38° 16.085' N., Long. 76° 52.042' W., then running 169° (True) to Light "2N", at or near Lat. 38° 16.020' N., Long. 76° 52.025' W., then running 41° (True) to the west tip of Cobb Island, at or near Lat. 38° 16.177' N., Long. 76° 51.853' W., and running easterly through the entire sound and its tributaries to a point on the northeast tip of Cobb Island, at or near Lat. 38° 15.868' N., Long. 76° 50.452' W., then running 41° (True) to Light "2", at or near Lat. 38° 15.938' N., Long. 76° 50.373' W., then running 359° (True) to a point on the north shore of Neale Sound, at or near Lat. 38° 16.050' N., Long. 76° 50.377' W. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

D. St. Patrick's Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°14'07.35"N., Long. 76°44'28.21"W., a line running 208° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°13'55.87"N., Long. 76°44'35.95"W.,] at or near Lat. 38° 14.122' N., Long. 76° 44.468' W., then running 219° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 13.940' N., Long. 76° 44.653' W. and running to the head of the creek, including all tributaries. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

E. Whites Neck Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°15'04.61"N., Long. 76°47'33.20"W., a line running 090° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°15'04.61"N., Long. 76°47'18.66"W.,] at or near Lat. 38° 15.057' N., Long. 76° 47.560' W., then running 90° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 15.057' N., Long. 76° 47.318' W. and running to the head of the creek, including all tributaries. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

F. Lake Conoy encompasses the area [from the entrance on Cornfield Harbor, north to the Point Lookout campground and west of Point Lookout Creek.] beginning at a point on the south end of the south jetty, at or near Lat. 38° 2.990' N., Long. 76° 19.755' W., then running 308° (True) to a point on the south end of the north jetty, at or near Lat. 38° 3.0200' N., Long. 76° 19.803' W., and east of a line beginning at a point on the south side of Lake Conoy, at or near Lat. 38° 3.2070' N., Long. 76° 19.847' W., then running 354° (True) to a point on the northeast tip of Treasure Island, at or near Lat. 38° 3.3280' N., Long. 76° 19.862' W., then running 356° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 3.4500' N., Long. 76° 19.872' W. This area has a minimum wake zone all year.

G. The Friendship Landing boat launch area of the Nanjemoy Creek encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point [at or near] on the south shore of Nanjemoy Creek, at [Lat. 38°27'10.1"N., Long. 77°08'58.6"W., a line running 3° True to the north shore of Nanjemoy Creek at Lat. 38°27'15.7"N., Long. 77°08'58.3"W.,] or near Lat. 38° 27.170' N., Long. 77° 8.983' W., then running 8° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 27.262' N., Long. 77° 8.967' W., and downstream of a line at a point on the north shore of Nanjemoy Creek, at [Lat. 38°27'13.8"N., Long. 77°09'7"W., and running 166° True to a point on the south shore of Nanjemoy Creek at Lat. 38°27'11.4"N., Long. 77°09'6.2"W.] or near Lat. 38° 27.230' N., Long. 77° 9.115' W., then running 170° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 27.187' N., Long. 77° 9.105' W. This area has a 6-knot [(6.9 MPH)] speed limit all year.

H. The upper Nanjemoy Creek encompasses the area beginning at a point on the north shore of Nanjemoy Creek, at [Lat. 38°27'13.8"N., Long. 77°09'7"W., a line running 166° True to the south shore of Nanjemoy Creek at Lat. 38°27'11.4"N., Long. 77°09'6.2"W.,] or near Lat. 38° 27.230' N., Long. 77° 9.115' W., then running 170° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 27.187' N., Long. 77° 9.105' W. and running to the head of the creek. This area has a 25-knot [(28.8 MPH)] speed limit all year.

I. Smoot Cove encompasses all of the area east of a line beginning at the southerly tip of Rosalie Island, at or near Lat. 38°47.458'N., Long. 77°1.339'W.[:] then running 181° (True) to a point, at or [near] near Lat. 38°47.099'N., Long. 77°1.350'W., then running 199° (True) to a point on the shore at the southern entrance of Smoot Cove, at or near Lat.

38°46.825'N., Long. 77°1.473'W. [Within this area, a person operating a vessel may not create a wake or exceed minimum/no wake speed in an area marked by the Department with no wake buoys.] *This area has a minimum wake zone all year.*

J. Mallows Bay encompasses *all of the area east of a line beginning at a point on shore at Potomac River Fisheries Commission marker M9B at Liverpool Point, at or near Lat. 38° 27.822'N., Long. 77° 16.252' W., then running 352° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38°28.883'N., Long. 77° 16.447'W.*], and running to the head of the bay, including the inner basin.] This area has a 6-knot speed limit all year.

.04 Potomac River Prohibited Areas.

A. (text unchanged)

(1) (text unchanged)

(a) Aqueduct Intake Dam (Great Falls) *which encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.002' N., Long. 77° 14.917' W., then running 342° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.177' N., Long. 77° 14.988' W., then running 327° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.338' N., Long. 77° 15.125' W., then running 312° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.422' N., Long. 77° 15.242' W., and downstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.157' N., Long. 77° 14.850' W., then running 326° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 0.565' N., Long. 77° 15.197' W.;*

(b) Paul E. Smith Dam (Williamsport) *which encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 35.712' N., Long. 77° 49.688' W., then running 262° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 35.697' N., Long. 77° 49.833' W., and downstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 35.810' N., Long. 77° 49.705' W., then running 262° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 35.795' N., Long. 77° 49.850' W.;*

(c) Dam No. 5 (near Clearspring) *which encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.447' N., Long. 77° 55.297' W., then running 215° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.340' N., Long. 77° 55.393' W., and downstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.478' N., Long. 77° 55.425' W., then running 215° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 36.397' N., Long. 77° 55.498' W.;*

(d) Dam No. 4 (near Downsville) *which encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 29.758' N., Long. 77° 49.588' W., then running 192° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 29.612' N., Long. 77° 49.630' W., and downstream of a line beginning at or near Lat. 39° 29.780' N., Long. 77° 49.713' W., then running 192° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 29.633' N., Long. 77° 49.755' W.;* and

(e) Kelly Springfield Dam (near Cumberland) *which encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point, at or near Lat. 39° 38.897' N., Long. 78° 45.973' W., then running 33° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 38.940' N., Long. 78° 45.937' W., and downstream of a line beginning at or near Lat. 39° 38.922' N., Long. 78° 46.065' W., then running 180° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 38.760' N., Long. 78° 46.065' W.;* and

(2) 100 yards upstream at Dam No. 1 (Brookmont Dam) *which encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 38° 56.957' N., Long. 77° 7.617' W., then running 253° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 56.878' N., Long. 77° 7.9480' W., and downstream of a line beginning at or near Lat. 38° 57.003' N., Long. 77° 7.635' W., then running 253° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 56.925' N., Long. 77° 7.967' W.*

B. Adjacent to Caledon Natural Area (DCR), King George County, Virginia. Except for boats used in commercial fishing operations pursuant to a commercial fishing license, and operating at a 6-knot or less speed limit, and boats operated under the supervision of the Caledon Natural Area, all boats are prohibited from that portion of the Potomac River within 1,000 feet of the mean low water mark adjacent to Caledon Natural Area DCR, King George County, Virginia, as designated by buoys, *at or near Lat. 38° 22.180' N., Long. 77° 7.652' W., then running 278° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.227' N., Long. 77° 8.063' W., then running 275° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.242' N., Long. 77° 8.275' W., then running 244° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 22.168' N., Long. 77° 8.467' W., then running 221° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.918' N., Long. 77° 8.745' W., then running 218° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.662' N., Long. 77° 9.003' W., then running 213° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.392' N., Long. 77° 9.223' W., then running 219° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 21.145' N., Long. 77° 9.475' W., then running 228° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 20.930' N., Long. 77° 9.775' W., then running 252° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 20.835' N., Long. 77° 10.153' W., then running 248° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 20.713' N., Long. 77° 10.532' W., then running 247° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 20.650' N., Long. 77° 10.720' W. during the [period from April 15 through October 15 each year]boating season.*

.05 Potomac River Minimum Wake Zones.

A. Chicamuxen Creek is a tributary of the Potomac River located in Charles County, encompassing the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°32'00.01"N., Long. 77°13'54.02"W., a line running 017° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°31'41.20"N., Long. 77°13'51.29"W.,]at or near Lat. 38° 32.557' N., Long. 77° 13.765' W., then running 347° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 32.620' N., Long. 77° 13.783' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has a minimum wake zone from March 1 through June 15 [each year].

B. Pomonkey Creek is a tributary of the Potomac River located in Charles County, encompassing the area beginning at a point, [Lat. 38°38'03.77"N., Long. 77°06'20.86"W., a line running 337° True to the opposite shore, Lat. 38°38'05.61"N., Long. 77°06'21.86"W.,]at or near Lat. 38° 38.050' N., Long. 77° 6.3650' W., then running 299° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 38° 38.062' N., Long. 77° 6.3920' W., and running to the head of the creek. This area has a minimum wake zone from March 1 through June 15 [each year].

.06 Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

All of the Maryland waters of the Potomac River, downstream of the Woodrow Wilson (I-95) Bridge, south of a line beginning at a point [at or near] *on* the north side of the Woodrow Wilson (I-95) Bridge, [defined by Lat. 38°47'36"N., Long. 77°02'15.8"W., then running approximately 89° True to a point at the north side of the Woodrow Wilson (I-95) Bridge, Lat. 38° 47'37"N., Long. 77° 01'31.9"W., and north of a line approximately 200 yards south (downstream) of the bridge, beginning at the point at the Maryland-District of Columbia Line Pile "DC1A", defined by Lat. 38°47'28.8"N., and Long. 77°02'21.6"W., then running 89° True to a point at the low water line of the Maryland shore, Lat. 38°47'29.7"N., Long. 77°01'26.9"W.] *at or near* Lat. 38° 47.600' N., Long. 77° 2.263' W., then running 88° (True) to a point, *at or near* Lat. 38° 47.617' N., Long. 77°1.532' W., and upstream of a line beginning at the Maryland-District of Columbia Line Pile "DC1A", *at or near* Lat. 38° 47.480' N.,, Long. 77° 2.360' W., then running 89° (True) to a point *on the Maryland shore, at or near* Lat. 38° 47.495' N., Long. 77°1.448' W. This area has a 6-knot speed limit all year.

The proposed regulation will appear in the Maryland Register on Friday May 2, 2014, comments concerning this regulation will be accepted through Monday June 2, 2014. The regulation will be adopted on Tuesday June 17, 2014 and become effective on Monday July 7, 2014.

Comments may be sent to Michael Grant, Regulations Coordinator, Boating Services, Clean Waterways, Facilities and Regulations Division, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-4, Annapolis, MD 21401, or call 410-260-8013, or fax to 410-260-8453, or e-mail to Michael.Grant@maryland.gov

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